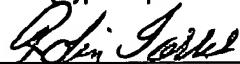


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: April 21, 1999

Robin Torres

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)



(Signature of person mailing paper)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

) Group Art Unit: 1614

Murty Arimilli et al.

) Docket No. 221.P1C

Serial No: 09/187,763

) Examiner: Michael G. Ambrose

Filed: November 6, 1998

)

Title: ANTIVIRAL PHOSPHONOMETHOXY  
NUCLEOTIDE ANALOGS HAVING  
INCREASED ORAL BIOAVAILABILITY

)  
)  
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

### AMENDMENT

#### In the Claims

Cancel without prejudice claims 33 and 34.

#### Remarks

This is responsive to the telephonic communications between Examiner Ambrose and the undersigned on April 20 and 21, 1999. During the first conversation, applicants elected claims 35-37 in response to a restriction requirement finding separate invention among three groups of claims (35-37, 33,